



## TEXAS ENVIROTHON

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## ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WINS TEXAS ENVIROTHON

Houston team to represent Texas in Emmitsburg, Maryland

April 20, 2017—A team of high school students from the Academy of Science and Technology won the 2017 Texas Envirothon championship in Junction, Texas. The event took place April 8 through 10 at the Llano River Field Station Texas Tech University Center at Junction. The Science Academy of South Texas earned second place, and third place went to Richardson High School.

“Envirothon is a great way for high school students to get hands-on experience and an introduction to potential natural resource careers,” said Wendy Reistle, program coordinator of the Texas Envirothon. “The competition also exposes students to real environmental issues that need to be addressed.”

The five-member team will travel to Emmitsburg, Md., to compete against teams from the states and Canadian provinces for scholarships at the NCF Envirothon. Students on the winning team are Amanda Varner, Ilam Silva, Lucas Warma, Sanjana Ramchandran, and Indiana Schnicer. Linda Costanzo and Larry Walker served as the team’s advisers.

Awards were given to the top scoring teams on the field exam by topic and for the top team in the oral presentation during an afternoon ceremony. Clear Lake High School took the top spot in Aquatics. Forestry and Soils were won by the Academy of Science and Technology Team Osprey. The Science Academy of South Texas took first place for both Wildlife and Current Issue. Academy of Science and Technology Team Wolf Spider placed first in the Oral Presentation.

Twenty-two teams representing 15 Texas high schools participated in the three-day competition. Participating schools were Academy of Science and Technology, The Woodlands; Klein Collins High School, Spring; Clear Falls High School, League City; Clear Lake High School, Houston; Junction High School, Junction; East Central High School, San Antonio; J. Frank Dobie High School, Pasadena; East Early College High School, Houston; Richardson High School, Richardson; Rio Hondo High School, Rio Hondo; St. John's School, Houston; The Woodlands High School, The Woodlands; Science Academy of South Texas, Mercedes; Thomas Jefferson T-STEM Early College High School, Pharr; and College Park High School, The Woodlands.

Financial support for the event was provided by conservation districts and natural resource related agencies and businesses from across Texas. Gold sponsor was Eastman Chemical Company. Bronze sponsors included LyondellBasell, Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, NCF-Envirothon/U.S. Forest Service, Texas Forestry Association Education Fund, and Texas Association of Environmental Professionals. Other contributors to the event were the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation District, Harris County Soil & Water Conservation District, Native American Seed, South Llano River State Park, and the Texas Association for Environmental Education. The Llano River Field Station TTU Center at Junction served as a sponsor and event host.



**Academy of Science and Technology takes top honors at the Texas Envirothon on Monday, April 10, 2017, at the TTU Center at Junction. Pictured (l. to r.) are Tom Arsuffi, Director of the Llano River Field Station, Sanjana Ramchandran, Indiana Schnicer, Amanda Varner, Ilam Silva, and Lucas Warma. The team will represent Texas at the NCF Envirothon.**

**ABOUT ENVIROTHON**

Envirothon is an academic, extra-curricular environmental and natural resource education program and competition designed for high school students. Teams composed of five students answer questions focusing on five areas of study: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current environmental issue. In addition to the field experience, students also participate in an oral component focusing on a real-world environmental problem.

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If you would like more information about the Texas Envirothon, please contact Wendy Reistle at 281-283-3045 or email at [reistle@uhcl.edu](mailto:reistle@uhcl.edu).